

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS :
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OF 18 USC 2511 and 2512 :
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476

Grand Jury Room No. 3
United States District Courthouse
3rd & Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Monday, November 19, 1973

The testimony of JOHN W. DEAN, III, was presented
to a full quorum of the Grand Jury.

BEFORE:

RICHARD BEN-VENISTE
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR.
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

JILL VOLNER
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

1 Q And what did you tell Mr. Ehrlichman?

2 A Well, I reported to Mr. Ehrlichman everything that
3 Liddy had told me and I recall recounting back to him, trying
4 to put all the pieces I had available at that point together,
5 by telling him about the meetings which had occurred in the
6 Attorney General's Office in January and February of '72.

7 Q Those were the meetings at which Liddy presented
8 his intelligence programs?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Did Mr. Ehrlichman again mention that he was going
11 to meet with Mr. Colson later that afternoon?

12 A He did. He mentioned that Mr. Colson was seeking
13 a meeting and that he wanted me to be present in that meeting
14 when it took place.

15 Q Did Mr. Ehrlichman also mention to you, on June 19th,
16 at some time, that you ought to contact the Justice Department
17 to find out what was going on in the investigation?

18 A Yes, he did.

19 Q And what did you do about that, if anything?

20 A I called Mr. Kleindienst and had a conversation with
21 Mr. Kleindienst and I later saw Mr. Kleindienst.

22 Q Now, during these first few conversations with Mr.
23 Ehrlichman, after the Watergate break-in, did he instruct you
24 to conduct an investigation and to determine whether anyone
25 in the White House was responsible or had knowledge of the

1 Watergate break-in? Give you a specific instruction to con-
2 duct a Watergate investigation?

3 A I wouldn't say it was an instruction to conduct an
4 investigation. He just told me to keep my eyes and ears open
5 and learn what I could.

6 Q Did Mr. Ehrlichman, or anyone else in the White
7 House, ever give you a specific instruction to conduct an
8 investigation into this matter, telling you that it was your
9 responsibility to make a determination of the facts and deter-
10 mine whether anyone in the White House was involved or re-
11 sponsible?

12 A Well, I wouldn't say that it was really until late
13 August, when it was reported that I had conducted such an in-
14 vestigation, that there ever became any semblance of such an
15 investigation and, after that, when it had been put on the
16 public record that I had conducted an investigation, I began
17 to pretend like I had conducted an investigation.

18 But I am unaware of ever being instructed to do an
19 investigation, because I would have proceeded much differently
20 if I was investigating. I was merely sort of catch as catch
21 can.

22 Q Was this -- did it naturally fall to you, as counsel
23 to the President, as a person who had had formal liaison with
24 the Justice Department, and the informal contacts there, to be
25 the person at the White House most aware of what was going on

1 in the Watergate investigation?

2 A Well, with things like this, what would generally
3 happen is that after Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman would
4 either lose interest or get consumed in something else, it
5 would fall to me to be the man to follow up and continue the
6 liaison and keep them abreast of what I was learning.

7 Q Are you speaking now about legal matters and Justice
8 Department matters, generally?

9 A No, I can't say that generally, no, because, for
10 example, antitrust areas were something I very seldom got
11 into.

12 Q I mean you are not speaking simply of Watergate?

13 A No, I'm not. I'm thinking of other instances where
14 things were rather active for a while and they die off. I'm
15 thinking of the Lithuanian defector problem, where everyone
16 had their hands in it for a while and then, when it fell to
17 the daily job of keeping abreast of what was happening, when
18 it wasn't in the headlines, that was my job.

19 I'm thinking of the Calley case, where there was a
20 great flurry of activity, and when it got down to, you know,
21 following daily what indeed was happening to Mr. Calley, that
22 was my office. That's the way things generally happened there.

23 Q Now, on June 19th, did you also have a meeting with
24 Gordon Strachan?

25 A Yes, I did.